

Appl. No. : 09/943,483
Filed : August 29, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) A padded sign displaying apparatus, comprising:

a folding chair having a pair of spaced legs and a seat portion and a back rest portion that extends between the spaced legs wherein the back rest portion provides support for a person's back when sitting on the seat portion wherein the back rest portion includes a first edge and a second edge that is disposed opposite from the first edge; and

a padded sign comprising:

a main body having dimensions that conform to dimensions of the back rest portion such that the main body also includes a first edge and a second edge that is disposed generally opposite from the first edge of the main body, wherein the main body comprises a panel that defines a front surface and a rear surface;

a plurality of integral retainers that extend contiguously from the first and second edges of the main body wherein the plurality of integral retainers have hook shapes biased toward the rear surface of the main body so as to allow urging of the plurality of hook shaped retainers into engagement with the first and second edges of the back rest portion thereby securing the main body of the padded sign to the back rest portion of the folding chair; and

~~at least one first retainer that extends from the first edge of the main body, wherein each of the at least one first retainer has a hook shape that is biased towards the rear surface of the main body such that the at least one hook shaped first retainer can be urged over the first edge of the back rest portion thereby retaining the first edge of the main body adjacent the first edge of the back rest portion;~~

~~at least one second retainer that extends from the second edge of the main body, wherein each of the at least one second retainer has a hook shape that is biased towards the rear surface of the main body such that the at least one hook shaped second retainer can be urged over the second edge of the back rest portion thereby retaining the second edge of the main body adjacent the second edge of the back rest portion, and wherein the at least one first retainer and the at least one~~

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~~second retainer are interconnected by the panel of the main body, such that the rear surface of the main body is positioned proximate the back rest portion of the chair and such that the front surface of the main body faces the person's back when the person's back is supported by the back rest portion wherein the at least one first and second retainers are formed of a flexible material that allows the user to urge the at least one first and second retainers into and out of engagement of the first and second edges of the back rest portion to install and remove the padded sign from the chair; and~~

a padding having an outer surface attached to the main body wherein a message is inscribed on the outer surface of the padding so as to be positioned in front of the front surface of the main body.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the main body and the plurality of retainers are constructed of plastic, ~~wherein the plurality of retainers form contiguous extensions from the main body.~~

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the main body is a 1/4 inch thick plastic.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the padded sign attached to the back rest portion of the folding chair is contoured to the back rest portion so as to retain the functional profile of the back rest portion.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the padding is attached to the main body by securing the padding onto the rear surface of the main body.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the padding is stapled to the rear surface of the main body.

15. (Currently amended) A folding chair having a folded and an unfolded configuration comprising:

a back rest portion with an upper edge and a lower edge wherein the back rest portion provides support for a person's back when sitting on the folding chair; and

a main body comprising a panel having an upper edge and a lower edge;

a plurality of retainers that extend contiguously from the upper and lower edges of the main body, wherein each of the plurality of retainers has a hook shape that can be urged over its respective edge of the back rest portion so as to allow securing of the main body to the back rest portion, wherein the plurality of retainers include at least one upper retainer that extends from the upper edge of the main body and at least one lower retainer that extends from the lower edge of the main body wherein the at least one upper retainer and the at least one lower retainer are interconnected by the panel of the main body, and wherein the at least one upper and lower retainers are formed of a flexible material that allows the user to urge the at least one upper and lower retainers into and out of engagement of the upper and lower edges of the back rest portion to install and remove the main body from the chair; and

a padding attached to the main body such that the main body is interposed between the padding and the back rest portion and such that the padding defines a first surface that comes into contact with the person's back when the person's back is supported by the back rest portion and wherein a message is inscribed on the first surface of the padding such that the message is visible when viewed from in front of the folding chair.

16. (Original) The folding chair of Claim 15, wherein the folding chair with the sign displaying device attached to the back rest portion has substantially similar dimensions as a folding chair without the sign displaying device attached.

17. (Original) The folding chair of Claim 16, wherein the folding chair with the sign displaying device attached to the back rest portion can be folded and unfolded without removing the sign displaying device.

18. (Previously presented) The folding chair of Claim 17, wherein a plurality of folding chairs with sign displaying devices attached can be stacked together when in the folded configuration.

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19. (Original) The folding chair of Claim 15, wherein a user can sit on the unfolded folding chair and rest the user's back on the back rest portion of the folding chair with the sign displaying device attached to the back rest portion.

20. (Original) The folding chair of Claim 15, wherein the message displayed on the sign displaying device attached to the back rest portion enhances the appearance of the folding chair.

21. (Previously presented) The folding chair of claim 20, wherein a plurality of folding chairs with messages displayed on a plurality of sign displaying devices enhance an overall atmosphere of the gathering for which the folding chairs are being used.

Claims 22-31 (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the first edge of the backrest portion and the first edge of the main body are oriented towards the top of the backrest portion and the second edge of the backrest portion and the second edge of the main body are oriented toward the bottom of the backrest portion.

33. (Previously presented) The folding chair of Claim 15, wherein the upper edge of the backrest portion and the upper edge of the main body are oriented towards the top of the backrest portion and the lower edge of the backrest portion and the lower edge of the main body are oriented towards the bottom of the backrest portion.